

Forage Spokesman Information

TOM FLOWERS

Flowers Farm
Shelby County, KY

Tom returned home to his family farm approximately 20 years ago when his brother decided to quit farming. He is a second generation farmer and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering which he received from Georgia Tech. The Flowers Farm consists of 720 acres. Tom also leases an additional 180 acres. He grows 150 acres of mixed hay and an additional 70 acres of alfalfa hay which is grown and sold to local farmers. There are 250 acres of both warm and cool season grasses which are rotationally grazed. In addition to the hay and pastures he grows about 220 acres of corn and soybeans in rotation. Tom also grows 16.5 acres of burley tobacco. He currently has 165 brood cows in his farming operation.

VINCE RAWE

Rawe Brothers Farm LLC
Campbell County, KY

Rawe Brothers Farm LLC is owned by Vince Rawe, Greg Rawe, and Terry Bezold of Campbell County, KY. The original farming operation was started by Vince and Barb Rawe in the spring of 1969 with the purchase of 101 acres. Today this farming entity is a grazing/backgrounding operation, consisting of 475 acres of owned and rented land and the marketing of approximately 900 head of backgrounded cattle annually. The majority of the feed used for these cattle is grown on the farm. We grow 75 acres of alfalfa/orchardgrass hay and 50 acres of red clover/orchardgrass hay, with most of the hay being harvested as high moisture. We place a high priority on pastures and forage management. Everything we take from the land, we put back. From soil and forage testing, to fertility and manure management, pasture renovation with legumes, rotational grazing, permanent waterers, electric fencing, using filter fabric, to fencing out ponds, we utilize conservation practices to protect our farm resources.

Vince and Barb also own California Cattle Co. Vince buys cattle at various stockyards for other producers and markets cattle as a representative for the Bluegrass Stockyard Internet Sale. While managing the forage and backgrounding operation, Vince also sells freezer beef to local consumers.

CALDWELL WILLIG

Rivercrest Farm Oldham County, KY

Located on 300 acres along the Ohio River in Oldham County, Rivercrest Farm raises Angus – Tarentaise cross beef cattle. The farm consists of approximately 115 acres of pasture and 75 acres of river bottom which is leased for row crop production. The balance of the farm is in woodlands.

Pastures include 6 acres of grazing type alfalfa, 5 acres of eastern gamagrass, 2 acres of bermudagrass, with the remainder in cool season grasses and ladino clover. The pasture acreage is moderately sloping Crider silt loam. Pastures are rotationally grazed using portable electric fencing and both permanent and portable waterers.

We have a herd of 75 cows divided between spring and fall calving. In addition to raising and selling freezer beef, the farm produces and sells eggs from a flock of 50 laying hens. This October the farm will produce its first harvest of pasture raised Cornish cross broiler chickens.

Mission Statement

At Rivercrest Farm we enjoy raising beef cattle and poultry that satisfy certain consumer demands for consistently good tasting, healthy, and age and source verified products. We raise our animals without the use of added hormones and antibiotic feed additives, and we engage in non-intensive and humane farming production practices. We strive to maximize sustainability in all our practices in order to promote good stewardship of our pasture, water and wildlife resources.

Goals

We want to maximize the dollars of revenue produced per acre while simultaneously reducing the need for purchased inputs such as hay, feed supplements, fertilizer and herbicides through the implementation of intensively managed rotational grazing practices and complementary species production. It is our ultimate desire to sell tractor trailer quantities (40/50K lbs) of feeder calves to select buyers via internet auction and produce 50 pasture raised broiler chickens every two weeks from June through October of each year.